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News Release

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Cradle and Crayon Receives NAEYC Accreditation

Hanover, N.H.—Cradle and Crayon, Inc., located at the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) in Hanover was recently granted accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This prestigious recognition has been achieved by approximately 7% of early childhood programs nationwide - some 6,215 programs as of May 1999, serving 574,402 children. "CRREL's child development center, Cradle and Crayon, is part of the Department of Defense child care system which views quality and developmentally appropriate early childhood programs as a top family priority," states Ms. Ann Dortch, CRREL's Child Care Coordinator. "CRREL is pleased and proud to be recognized as a NAEYC accredited child development center."

NAEYC accreditation is a rigorous, voluntary process by which early childhood programs demonstrate that they meet national standards of excellence. Programs seeking accreditation undergo an intensive self-study, collecting information from parents, teachers, administrators, and classroom observations. They receive an on-site visit, conducted by early childhood professionals especially trained by NAEYC, to validate their self-study results. All of this information is independently reviewed by a team of national experts who grant or defer accreditation. Once awarded, accreditation is valid for three years.

"The heart of NAEYC accreditation focuses on the child's experience," said Rebecca Dinces, Director, Cradle and Crayon. "The process carefully considers all aspects of a program including health and safety, staffing, staff qualifications, and physical environment. The greatest emphasis is on the children's relationships with the staff and how the program helps each child grow and learn intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally."

Cradle and Crayon, Inc., is located at the CRREL site and serves 40 children ranging in age from 6 weeks to 6 years. Set up as a "model" Army child development center in 1989, Cradle and Crayon has become one of the area's leading quality day care centers.

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